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17 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Operations, IPS/DCI

SUBJECT: Overflights of the Soviet Bloc

1. The Intelligence Staff has completed a study of the vulnerability of the U-2 to known Soviet defenses. In its research, the facilities of OSI, Army, Navy and AFIC were utilized. The study involved air-to-air missiles, air-to-air intercept utilizing the "zoom climb" and surface-to-air missiles. Except for known and suspected surface-to-air missile sites, it is felt that the U-2 will continue to have a high probability of success in overflights for the next 150 days.

2. It is recommended that all planned overflight coverage utilizing the U-2 be completed during this period. Authorization for seven (7) successful overflights would be required to cover all the highest priority targets. In addition to coverage of these, numerous high priority and bonus targets would be obtained.

3. According to available information, this could represent the last opportunity to obtain quality photographic coverage of the Soviet Bloc nations, with the possible exception of shallow penetrations, for an indefinite period. It is, of course, conceivable that successful utilization of the [ ] and effective operational results of camouflage paint could extend the survivability prospects of the U-2 beyond the 150 day period referred to above; however, time still remains the most critical consideration.

4. It is strongly recommended that every effort be made to obtain authority for the required number of overflights during this period to allow coverage of present and any anticipated requirements.

LCMR

CSN

CONCUR:

PFC:mfl

1-2 - Addressee

3 - Intel

4 - Ops chron

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